

## **Presenter Guide**

### **Dyslexia Awareness Module, Part 2: What causes dyslexia?**

**Purpose:** To assist participants in understanding dyslexia etiology.

**Goals:** Participants will:

- Identify three main potential “causes” of dyslexia
- Develop a plan to use the most relevant information in schools

**Time:** Approximately 30 minutes

**Format:** In-person (or adapted for synchronous online)

**Structure:** PowerPoint presentation and activities

Slide 1: Introduction (5 minutes) whole group

- Introduce topic, purpose, and goals
- Ask participants to “turn and talk” about what they think causes dyslexia and share out

Slides 2-10: Whole group (15 min)

- Presenter reviews these slides
- Notes for the presenter are embedded in the “notes” section of each PPT slide.

Slide 11: How does this information help us? (10 minutes)

- Participants discuss (in groups or partners) which strand of research is most relevant to schools/teachers, and how it is useful
- Return to whole group to discuss
- Brain-based research is interesting, but it does not help teachers/schools
- Genetics might be fascinating, but again, no help to teachers/schools
- Heredity CAN help teachers and schools. If we know that a student has a family member with dyslexia, we can ensure that we monitor that student
- Participants work together to create a plan for their district—how can we get information about family history of dyslexia?



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education

## **Further resources:**

Understood.org:

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/dyslexia-possible-causes>

9.5-minute video by Dr. Guinevere Eden, Director, Center for the Study of Learning, Georgetown University:

[https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/video-dyslexia-and-the-brain?\\_ul=1\\*naliyr\\*domain\\_userid\\*YW1wLVJQS1Zsc3pwSklTQWZjU19scmxLeUE.](https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/dyslexia/video-dyslexia-and-the-brain?_ul=1*naliyr*domain_userid*YW1wLVJQS1Zsc3pwSklTQWZjU19scmxLeUE.)

Everyday Health:

<https://www.everydayhealth.com/dyslexia/causes-myths-questions-answers/>



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education